

Planting Something

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This is the first ever Planting Something Newsletter and as such I will make sure to keep it brief. Let me start by bullet-pointing the things that God has been showing me:

- **Oakland is beautiful. The architecture is amazing and the area is simply clean.**
- **There are a ton of ministries, but for the most part they are very homogenous, there is little cross-cultural gatherings, ministry or just any stuff happening.**
- **The leaders of the churches and the ministries have a passion for the Lord and for the college. They make no bones about how much they love the college students.**

Some approaches to ministry are antiquated and as a result few of the whole student body are involved. 2 ventures which have proven to be supremely vibrant are Cornerstone (CCO and Bellefield Presbyterian) as well as the newest effort Northway

Oakland Campus. Other ministries are vibrant in their way but few (from where I can see) have done a great job at evangelism. This is a statement from just hearing about them and further investigation must be done.

I love Oakland more than I thought.

A Multi-ethnic Church plant is not only needed but wanted by many. The leaders of ministries I have talked to so far that involve African American students are sad they have little to nowhere to send their Black students. Mount Arat and ACAC have

both been recommended but the proximity from Oakland to those places is far enough that Black students end up not having a place to call their "Home church" while here in Pittsburgh.

So far, I have met with:

- Mark Steffey from CCO and involved as Pitt's sports chaplain
- Doug Melder- the campus Pastor for Northway Oakland
- Andy- CCO and Bellefield Presbyterian
- Several College students (most from ACAC SM)
- Several more to come

God has truly been revealing himself to me and showing me more about myself. There was even a day where I felt the Holy Spirit calling all kinds of mess out of my own heart in order for me to move forward with this venture. I've found a quiet place down here to



do my personal devotion/listening time and am more excited than ever to be a part of this amazing work of God! I hope at this point you are asking the newsletter: How can I pray for you? That is an excellent question! Below are the bullet points.

PRAY:

- **God will lead me to the students he desires to be leaders of this plant.**
- **God will lead me to adults from ACAC who will be mentors to these college leaders and deeply involved in the core.**
- **Pray for my wife Hilary and specifically for discernment on how much she can invest in this now and where to best invest.**
- **For my children MJ and Amelia as they are a part of this plant even if they don't know it!**
- **God will continue to give favor with the other churches and ministries as we look to partner with them in this multi-ethnic plant.**
- **God will provide free parking for me down here in Oakland. I have a door I will knock on and see if the Lord opens it, so please pray for favor there.**
- **Against Satan and his desires to thwart this venture. The last plant similar to this saw their leader shot and the rest ended badly.**
- **For Gospel oriented conversations with random people. Pray God will use my time down here to think pray and lead others to Jesus.**
- **For discernment as to where to go and who to talk to.**



I covet your prayers and am lucky to have all of you alongside Hilary and me in this venture. Please lift us up in prayer as we both seek to love these students!